

REMARKS

Before entry of this Amendment and Response, the status of the application according to the pending Office action is as follows:

- Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 13-16, 26-28, and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,177,885 to Marmonnier (hereinafter “Marmonnier”).
- Claims 5 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of International Application Publication No. WO 95/22917 to Oreck (hereinafter “Oreck”).
- Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,694,592 to Baggio (hereinafter “Baggio”).
- Claims 8 and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- Claim 29 is allowed over the prior art of record.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-5, 7-25, and 34 without prejudice, as shown in the preceding Listing of Claims. Applicants hereby amend claims 26 and 30-33 without prejudice, as shown in the preceding Listing of Claims.

Applicants hereby amend claim 26 to correspond to allowed claim 29 by including the allowable subject matter of now cancelled claim 8 and intervening claim 2. Applicants hereby amend claims 30-33 to depend from allowed claim 29. Applicants hereby add new claims 35-56 to depend from allowed claim 29. Support for new claims 35-56 can be found at least in claims 3-7, and 9-25 as originally filed, and paragraphs [0011]-[0021], of the application as originally

filed. No new matter is entered thereby.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection and passage of claims 26-33, and 35-56 to allowance.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 13-16, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marmonnier. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as applied to the claims, as amended.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, and 13-16, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Applicants have amended claim 26 to correspond to allowed claim 29 by including the allowable subject matter of now cancelled claim 8 and intervening claim 2, which was not rejected over Marmonnier. Accordingly, claim 26 is patentable over Marmonnier under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Because claims 27-28 depend directly from amended claim 26, and include all respective limitations thereof, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable as well.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9, 13-16, and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Marmonnier.

2. Claims 5 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of Oreck.

Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 10-13, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of Oreck.

3. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of Baggio.

Applicants have cancelled claims 18 and 19, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marmonnier in view of Baggio.

4. Claims 8 and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled claims 8 and 20-25, thereby rendering the objection moot with respect to those claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 8 and 20-25, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

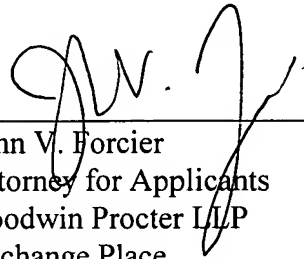
5. With this Amendment and Response, Applicants hereby add new claims 35-56. Claims 35-56 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 29 and are patentable for at least that reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 35-56 in due course.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of claims 26-33 and 35-56 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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